

## S-6 April News

By Sgt. 1st Class John Terry

March has been a very busy and productive month for the Fires Brigade S6 shop. We've coordinated multiple Family Readiness Group Video Teleconferences, tracked numerous convoys, conducted Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade-and-Below and Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System training for the brigade, 100 percent equipment accountability inventories, weapons ranges, M1114 vehicle lanes training, section Army Physical Fitness Tests and participated in a recent brigade Weapons Competition.

Besides Integrating Communication and Automation taskings to provide maximum support for our brigade's mission, Maj. Clarence White has overseen the implementation of the Harris 117 and Harris 150 Base Station Radios into the Fires Brigade communication systems for emergency tactical satellite capability.

White has also conducted several Command Assistance visits with Battery A, 26th Field Artillery, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, with another scheduled visit to the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery.

Though his schedule is demanding, White always finds the time to play his Soldiers in a friendly game of Chess or the ever-standing "pull-up competition" in which a Soldier can earn a day off if the Soldier beats him. He has been training for the upcoming East LSA Bench press competition at Camp Liberty. So far the Soldiers haven't won a day off. He is also working on designing and building a BMX Track on Camp Liberty for the Soldiers to use.

Master Sgt. Trevor Jones completed 40 hour class on Counter Remote Control IED Electronic Warfare training and has become the one of subject matter expert within the brigade on this force protection initiative.

Jones, always the consummate professional, takes every opportunity to train and mentor the Soldiers within his section. His dedication led to two of his Non Commissioned Officers preparing to compete in the upcoming Sergeant Audie Murphy Board.

Staff Sgt. Robert Martinez, S-6's newest team member, has been implementing new procedures to allow the Harris radio systems to communicate with the SINCGARS and TACSAT radio systems throughout the brigade. He is breaking new ground in our Commo shop and has provided training to those who will be fielding this new equipment.

Martinez was also selected for promotion to Sergeant First Class and is also preparing to compete in the upcoming Sergeant Audie Murphy Board.

Staff Sgt. Lisa Walters has been busy with implementing cross-training materials within the section so all S-6 personnel can cover down on each others missions. Walters has assisted in conducting communications security changeovers, FBCB2 and Blue Force Tracker monitoring during convoy operations.

Though her work load is demanding, she still finds time to work on two college courses through online universities.

Sgt. Patricia Matos, the "go to" Commo Soldier of the S6 shop, has had a very busy month conducting Comsec changeovers, FBCB2 and BFT monitoring during convoy operations and radio communications troubleshooting.

She was also involved in the Fires Brigade's M1114 Convoy Training Lanes ensuring all checks and communication functionality was made to standard. She has written new training procedures on different critical communication tasks for her fellow soldiers and is also preparing to compete in the upcoming Sergeant Audie Murphy Board.

Sgt. Barron Rhodes has also had a very busy month.

Besides incorporating new automation requirements throughout the brigade, participating in 100 percent equipment accountability inventories, developing the junior Soldiers in the section for Soldier of the Month Boards, and bringing networks and computer equipment back online, Rhodes distinguished himself by assisting a 5th Corp soldier who had passed out on the roadside due to dehydration.

Rhodes took the initiative and rendered emergency medical aid to the Soldier. For his actions, he received the 4th Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major's Coin of Excellence from Command Sgt. Major Riling.

Whether it is convoys, communication missions, Comsec changeovers or force protection duties, Spc. Brandon Cortez is always ready to meet the challenge. His knowledge and experience prove to be a great asset to the S6 shop.

He is currently tasked with creating the St. Barbara's Ball video slideshow scheduled for June, which will involve hours of taking digital photos and painstakingly incorporating them into a presentation with audio and video. Cortez is known for his great photography skill and was also called upon by the brigade staff to design the new Fires Bde. Coin.

Another key player in the S-6 is Spc. Damien Wilson who is always ready to lend a hand and accomplish the mission. Wilson recently conducted "Commo Week" Training

on the SINCGARS radio and FBCB2 with the brigade personnel. This enabled the Personnel Security Detachment and others who regularly conduct convoys a chance to brush up on their comms skills to ensure they know how to communicate effectively while on the move.

Wilson also took his Environmental Morale Leave and went back to Atlanta Ga. in March, which he really enjoyed.

Spc. Ariel Class continues to do great things for us here. He attended the M2 Machinegun range conducted by 324th Network Signal Company and also came in second in the Fires Brigade's Weapons Competition.

In the competition, Class demonstrated his skill at disassembling and assembling the M9 Pistol, M16A2 Rifle, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon and M2 Machinegun (.50 cal).

Class will be competing in the Soldier of the Month Board for May and is busy studying when he is not troubleshooting automation, computer, network and software problems in the brigade.